

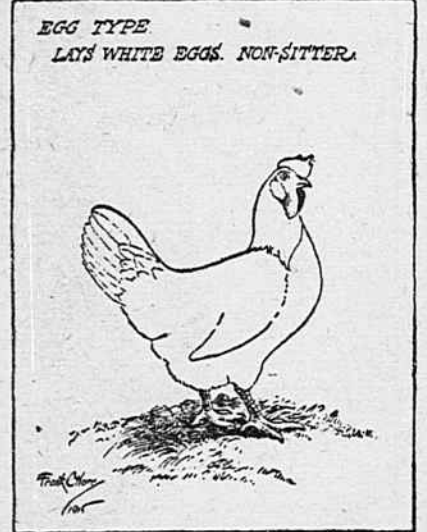
# HOW TO CHOOSE POULTRY FOR PRODUCTION OF EGGS OR TABLE FOWLS

Characteristics of Chickens That Make Them Good Laying or General Purpose Breeds—White Leghorn and Barred Plymouth Rock Most Popular Varieties.

Breeds of poultry can be conveniently divided into two classes: (1) the egg breeds, and (2) the general purpose breeds. This division is like that of cattle into beef and dairy types, and of horses into light and heavy classes.

In the egg breeds of poultry the primary requirement is the production of a great number of eggs of standard size. The fowls are not expected to be prime table specimens, but they must lay throughout the year, except when they have to rest and recuperate. They do not sit and hatch chickens and they lay white-shelled eggs. The more popular egg breeds are Leghorns, Minorcas, Anconas and Campines. The most popular variety of these breeds is the Single-Comb White Leghorn:

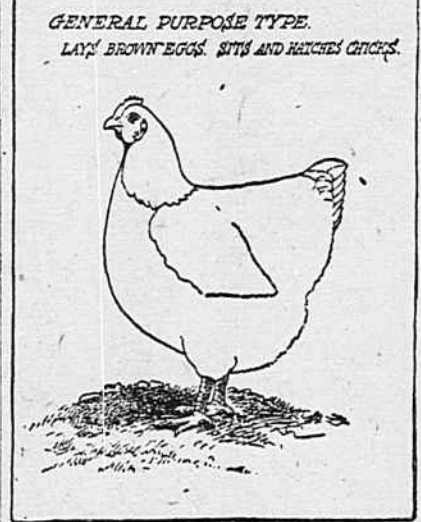
All large egg farms are stocked with White Leghorn pullets and hens, because it is possible to obtain breeding stock in this variety that has blood lines of heavy egg production behind it. Pullets from a heavy-laying strain are better layers than pullets of no special breeding.



How can one detect heavy laying characteristics in a mature pullet or hen? Notice the illustration of the egg type hen. Note how her body resembles the wedge shape of the dairy cow. Narrow and trim at her neck and wide and deep at the rear, she has the greater part of her body behind her legs. A good layer has a large, soft, flexible rear end, dropping down between her legs and so wide that the legs are set far apart to accommodate it. The rear end of the hen corresponds to the udder of the dairy cow and must be large and yielding, not small and hard.

A simple test of a good layer is to measure the distance from the two pelvic bones (one on each side of the vent) to the rear end of the breastbone. This distance should be as wide as four fingers when the hen is laying. When the hen has this depth and is also wide across her rear it proves that she has an abundance of room to manufacture eggs constantly and particularly the egg shells, which are formed in this part of her body. Such a hen will lay well when properly cared for.

Hens with a small distance between the pelvic bones and rear of breastbone and tight or unyielding rear body are not good layers. Put bands on the legs of your layers and note how many consecutive days they lay without resting. That will show how long each hen can maintain her egg flow and the better layers are those which can continue laying for longer periods.



The general purpose breeds have been selected primarily for the production of table poultry. They are also good layers of brown-shelled eggs. They hatch their chicks and are the most satisfactory for those who want one flock of purebred chickens for both meat and egg purposes. The more popular of the general purpose breeds are Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, Wyandottes and Orpingtons. The most popular variety is the Barred Plymouth Rock. This is recognized as the best chicken for market as it is large and well-meated and fattens profitably when confined in crates.

FRANK C. HARE, Extension Poultry-Husbandman, Clemson Agricultural College.

## DESTROY CORN STUBBLE

Farmers Can Reduce Damage from Corn Stalk Borer by Turning Under Stubble in Fall.

Corn stubble should not be allowed to stand in the field all winter undisturbed. The corn stalk borer is one of the "reasons" for this. This insect is one of the most notorious corn pests of the South and evidence of its work can be seen in practically any corn field at harvest time. It is the cause of the holes that may occur in any portion of a stalk.

The corn stalk borer remains as a larva, or worm, in the base of corn stubble beneath the ground during the winter. Farmers do this insect a great favor, therefore, when they let their corn stubble stand undisturbed in the field during fall and winter.

Destroying corn stubble is not very easy, except on modernly equipped farms where there is sufficient horse power and the stubble can be turned under thoroughly. There is, therefore, some temptation to leave it undisturbed. But the advantages of turning stubble are such that a farmer cannot well afford not to do it. Turning it under helps very much in reducing the corn stalk borer for the next season.

Where thorough turning cannot be practiced, there are other methods such as "busting out" the stubble and hauling it to the compost heap for rotting. By another method, after the corn is gathered, stalks, stubble, and everything else may be "busted out," raked into heaps and, after a few weeks for drying, burned. In experimental work a very large percentage of corn stalk borer larvae (worms) was destroyed during winter where the stubble was plowed out and left exposed to the weather.

But when these methods are practiced by farmers only here and there, it will not help the situation very much. The control of the corn stalk borer depends upon the co-operative action of the farmers of a community. The fact must also be borne in mind that it is an extravagant practice to let corn fields lie idle and exposed during the winter months, not only on account of these insect pests, but also on account of the loss from washing and leaching of soils.

A. F. CONRADI, Professor of Entomology, Clemson Agricultural College.

## DO NOT NEGLECT TOOLS

Farmers Suffer Large Losses by Failure to Care for Implements That Are Not in Use.

The farmer who puts away his farm machinery without oiling and cleaning it is certain to lose in the deterioration of the machinery many times what the time to care for it would have been worth. Failure to take care of farm machinery is a source of large loss to the American farmer annually.

Most farmers realize that they would save money by taking good care of their machines, but neglect to do so, either through carelessness or indifference. The most important step toward having efficient machinery is keeping it in good repair. In spare time, each machine should be carefully inspected and all missing, broken or overworn parts noted. Write the names and numbers of missing parts on tags and fasten these tags to the machine.

All machines should have a general inspection at least once a year. A rainy day in late fall is very good for this purpose.

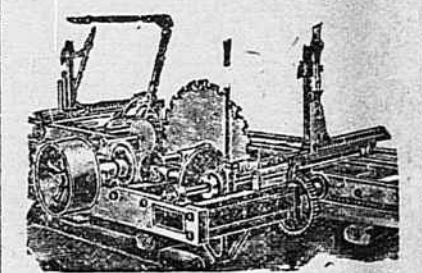
Exposure to weather injures both wooden and metal parts of machines and a machinery shed should by all means be part of the farm equipment. Every machine should be cleaned, oiled, and housed after it has been used.

Painting aids greatly in improving the appearance and prolonging the life of machines. It protects both wood and metal from the weather. Paint should be used freely when needed. One of the best paints for all farm implements is made with red lead and linseed oil.

The use of good farm implements is increasing rapidly in South Carolina and farmers owe it to themselves to be more careful of their tools. In the year that has gone, they have learned some important lessons in economy, but there is probably no more practical way in which a farmer can economize than by taking the proper care of his farm implements—repairing them, oiling them, housing them, and painting them.

SIDNEY S. RITTENBERG, Agricultural Publicist, Clemson Agricultural College.

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